

Remarks:

The present amendment is in response to the revised first office action dated February 9, 2005 in the above-identified patent application.

In the revised first office action, claims 1-12 and 14-24 were pending, with claims 1-12, 14-17, and 19-24 being rejected, with claim 18 being objected to, and with claims 1, 15, and 16 having been amended and claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 having been cancelled.

In the office action page 2, paragraph 1, the Examiner objected to the drawings as the lines, numbers, and letters are not uniformly thick and well defined, especially Figures 2-4, 6, 7, and 11, wherein the drawing ink has been smeared.

In response, a set of formal replacement drawing sheets is submitted wherein there have not been any material amendment changes to the replacement drawing sheets.

Summary of claim objections and rejections

In the office action page 3, paragraph 2, the Examiner objected to previously cancelled claim 13 as the text of claim 13 remained in the previous amendment.

In response, the text of cancelled claim 13 is deleted in the present amendment.

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In the office action on page 3 paragraph 4, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. 101 for double patenting as claiming the same invention as that of claims 13-17 of copending application number 10/710,378.

In response, claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended and claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been cancelled.

In the office action page 3 paragraph 5, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 19, 21, 22, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 101 for double patenting for claiming the same invention as that of claims 20, 22, 23, 24, and 25 of copending application number 10/710,378.

In response, the amendment filed on April 4, 2005 for application number 10/710,378 amended claims 20, 21, and 25 that added the use of a fastener to the method claim grouping that was accepted by the Examiner to be allowable, thus the present application number 10/604,526 method claims 19-24 require the use of an aperture insert without fasteners and therefore should be allowable.

In the office action on page 4 in paragraph 7 the Examiner provisionally rejected claim 20 for obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of copending application number 10/710,378 as the claims are not patentably distinct because claim 21 of application number 10/710,378 defines the step of claim 20 of the instant application and adds "using said lockable element".

In response, the amendment filed on April 4, 2005 for application number 10/710,378 amended claims 20, 21, and 25 that added the use of a

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fastener to the method claim grouping that was accepted by the Examiner to be allowable, thus the present application number 10/604,526 method claims 19-24 require the use of an aperture insert without fasteners and therefore should be allowable.

In the office action on page 5 paragraph 8, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 2-12 under obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-12 of copending application number 10/710,378.

In response, claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended and claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been cancelled in the present application, also the amendment filed on April 4, 2005 for application number 10/710,378 amended claims 1, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 25 and cancelled claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 to add the aperture insert with the male frustoconical segment and to modify the closure second end to add a mating female frustoconical segment to amended claim 1 that was accepted by the Examiner to be allowable.

Further in the office action on page 8 paragraph 9 the Examiner objected to claim 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all intervening claim limitations.

In response, claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended and claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been cancelled in the present application, wherein the limitations of claims 18, 17, 14, and 13 have been incorporated into amended claim 1 in compliance with the Examiner allowable subject matter of claim 18. Also, claims 15 and 16 were amended to correct claim dependencies, and

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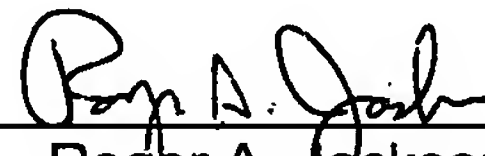
claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 were cancelled as they were incorporated into amended claim 1. Thus claims 1-12, 15, and 16 should now be allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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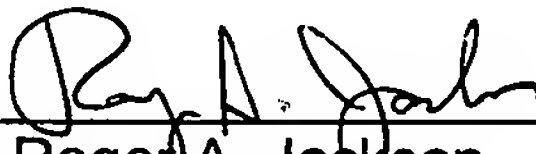
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.8

I hereby certify that the attached **TRANSMITTAL OF RESONSE TO THE REVISED 1st OFFICE ACTION, FORMAL PATENT DRAWINGS INCLUDING 12 FIGURES ON 5 SHEETS, AND RETURN RECIEPT POST CARD** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 9th day of August, 2005.



Roger A. Jackson